THE TRUE INTEREST OF THE PRINCES of *EUROPE*, AT THIS PRESENT JUNCTURE. IN FAMILIAR LETTERS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE COURTS, TO A GETLEMAN in *ENGLAND*.

The INTEREST

Of the EMPEROR
Of the El. of BAVARIA
Of the K. of PRUSSIA
Of HOLLAND
Of FRANCE
Of ENGLAND
Of SPAIN
Of SWEDEN
Of MUSCOVY
Of the Court of ROME
Of the Republick of VENICE.

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TO

William Pulteney, *Esq*;

SIR,

YOUR *Zeal for the Defence of the Rights, Liberties, and Privileges of your Country (to whose Interest you have always appear'd so ready to sacrifice your own) and your generous Opposition to all the ill-concerted Measures of our* false Patriots *and unskilled Politicians, have induced me to claim your Protection for this Essay on the true Interest of the Princes of* Europe *at this Juncture.*

Your just Discernment and consummate Experience in political Affairs, are more than sufficient to recommend my Work, if once approved by you; for if the present Administration had followed the different Schemes you have, from Time to Time, laid before them; or consulted

ſulted, as you have always done, the Glory of their Prince, and the Welfare of his Subjects, we ſhould not be obliged, at preſent, to repreſent thoſe Intereſts in a Light ſo oppoſite to their natural one. The Blunders, Miſcarriages, Ignorance, and ------ of FAVOURITES, *have thrown the political State of* Europe *into a Sort of Convulſion, of which* England, *in particular, is ſo likely to feel the dangerous Symptoms, and which might be prevented yet, if thoſe unskilful Politicians, whoſe Want of Experience has render'd the Fable of all* Europe, *could be perſuaded to call you into Conſultation with them; but Pride and Obſtinacy have always been the inſeparable Companions of a groſs Ignorance.*

However, Sir, let us make in Concert a laſt Effort for the Converſion of thoſe Hereticks *in Politicks, and endeavour to convince them, by this general Sketch of the true Intereſts of the Princes of* Europe *imperfectly delineated, that it is not ours that ſhould appear in ſuch an oblique View, and that all the* faux Jours, *which are ſhewn in it, are owing to their Want of Dexterity in the Management of our Affairs, both Foreign and Domeſtick, and you'll oblige,*

SIR,

Your very humble Servant,

THE TRUE INTEREST OF THE Princes of *Europe*, &c.

The Intereſt of the EMPEROR, *N. S.*

Vienna, February 1, 1733.

SIR,

THE new Syſtem of Politicks, of which your *Modern and wiſe Miniſters* can juſtly claim the Honour of having been the firſt Inventors, and which all *Europe* thought calculated for their Meridian only, as intirely contrary to the true Intereſt of a Prince, or of his Subjects, have been lately, by an unexpected Event (which

our ancient Politicians are pleaſed to call Fatality) received amongſt us; and are likely to create as much Diſorder and Confuſion in our Councils, as they do in yours.

It is true, Sir, that our *German* Politicks have never been looked upon by other Nations as a moſt refined one, eſpecially ever ſince the Abdication of *Charles* the Fifth; or our *German* Miniſtry thought incorruptible: but however, we had till this preſent unhappy Juncture, retained ſo good an Opinion of our ſelves, to which the vaſt Succeſs of *Charles*'s glorious Enterprizes had given Birth; that we thought we had ſtill Senſe and Diſcernment enough left, to make a juſt Difference betwixt the publick Good, and a Shadow of Glory, attended with Affliction and ill Succeſs.

Senſible that it is not the Intereſt of the *illuſtrious Germanic Body*, in General, or of the Emperor in Particular, to leave a full Carier to the unlimited Ambition of the *Muſcovites*, reckoned dangerous by the Impoliticks of *Charles* the Fifth's Succeſſors, we have been ſurprized at the ſtrict Alliance, lately contracted between the two Courts of *Vienna* and *Petersbourg*; neither have we been capable yet, to underſtand, upon what Foundation it is eſtabliſh'd, with what View cemented, and what great Advantages can accrue from it to the *Roman* Empire. The

The *Muſcovites*, till their late Legiſlator *Peter the Great*, had made little or no Figure in *Europe*, and were ſcarcely known but by their Ferocity, Ignorance, and the vaſt Extent of their Empire, more formidable for its unpaſſable Mountains, unpenetrable Foreſts, and unpracticable Deſerts, than by the Number, Courage, or warlike Diſpoſition of its Inhabitants. Their ambitious Neighbours, eſpecially the *Poles* and the *Swedes*, had wreſted from them the moſt beautiful and fertile Provinces they were poſſeſs'd of in that Part of the World, which ſome of their Czars had attempted to defend, but always in vain, till *Peter*, after his Victory at *Pultowa*, began to draw both the Attention and Reſpect of all *Europe*. Little ſatisfy'd with having re-conquer'd what had been diſmember'd from *Ruſſia* by the *Swedes*, he had form'd the vaſt Deſign of rendering his Empire, in Proceſs of Time, as unlimitted as was his Ambition. He wanted above all, a Footing in *Germany*; but our late Emperor *Joſeph*, thinking the Neighbourhood of ſuch a warlike enterprizing and ambitious Prince, too dangerous, who in Proceſs of Time could have oppreſs'd the whole *Germanic* Body and made himſelf Emperor, oppoſed it.

Were the Suſpicions and Jealouſies of thoſe Times vain and groundleſs? Or is it leſs our Intereſt to confine the *Ruſſian* Empire within its na-

tural Limits, or have we leſs to fear at preſent, from the Ambition of the Court of *Petersbourg*, than we had then? And if we are in the ſame Danger, why don't we endeavour to cruſh the over-growing Power of the *Muſcovites*, rather than render it more formidable to us, by lending a helping Hand toward the Extent of their Conqueſts? We do it, perhaps, by a Principle of Gratitude for the ſignal Services they have done us in the late Election of a King of *Poland*? But thoſe very pretended Services ſhould have been Suſpect to us; ſince it is the Opinion of the moſt impartial amongſt us, that the *Czarina* conſulted rather her Ambition at that Juncture, than the true Intereſt of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, and was glad of the Opportunity of forcing the *Poles* to accept a King from her Hands, againſt their own Inclination, and contrary to the fundamental Laws of the Republick; in Hopes, perhaps, to pave the Way to further Incroachments on their Priveledges and Liberties, and to make ſome Time or other, their Kingdom a Province of the *Ruſſian* Empire; which, if it ſhould happen, would be a perpetual Thorn in our Sides.

You'll ſay, perhaps, Sir, that my Suſpicions are nothing elſe but Panick Fears; and that I ſuppoſe Things which will never be brought to bear, ſince it will always be in the Power of the Emperor, and of the Empire, to hinder the Execution of thoſe ſup-

ſuppoſed dangerous Projects of the *Muſcovites*; that their Matching their Troops in *Poland* to ſupport *Auguſtus*, can never be attended with ſuch fatal Conſequences for us, as to have their King in the *French* Intereſt, that the *Poles* have always been thought capable to cope with the *Muſcovites*, to oppoſe any Invaſion on their Sides, or to expel them if once enter'd into *Poland*.

If my Fears are Panicks, they are, however, grounded upon inconteſtable Precedents, eaſily to be found even in this Century; ſince we have all the Reaſon imaginable to believe that *Peter the Firſt*, would have ſeiz'd on *Poland*, inſtead of reſtoring *Auguſtus*, if he had dealt with a leſs warlike Prince, and had not been afraid of bringing upon him the Arms of the Empire, render'd at that Time, formidable, by its vaſt and uninterrupted Succeſs againſt *France*; what could we expect leſs, was the Kingdom of *Poland* divided in ſo many Parts at preſent as it was then? I cannot agree with you, that it will be always in the Emperor's Power to hinder the *Muſcovites* from executing their Projects, eſpecially, if they were aſſiſted by a powerful Ally, which none of their Neighbours will refuſe, for the Sake of their Share in the Spoils. As for the Dangers we run by having a King of *Poland* in the *French* Intereſts, you'll give me Leave to ſay, that they are chimerical; ſince we have ſeen a King of *Poland* in the

French

French Intereſt, and indebted to *France* for his Election, ſuch was the late *John Sobieski*; but we don't know that *France* has ever reap'd any Benefits by it, or the Empire been the worſe for it. I confeſs, that if a King of *Poland* was as abſolute as the King of *France*, and could aſſemble as eaſily the *Poſpolite* as his *Moſt Chriſtian* Majeſty does his Armies, one could make a powerful Diverſion, while the other, is engaged in a War againſt the Emperor; but every Body that is acquainted with the *Poliſh* Government, knows that is a Thing impoſſible. The *Poſpolites* are certainly a formidable Body, which, if once on Horſeback, and inſpired with an unanimous Spirit of Fidelity to their Prince, and of Sincerity to the true Intereſt of their Country, could not only cope with the *Muſcovites*, but even make the whole *Ruſſian* Empire tremble; but which is very difficult to be effected, amongſt People ſo eaſy to be bribed by their Neighbours, and always ready to preſerve their own private Intereſt to the Publick Good. Therefore what Influence could the Emperor promiſe himſelf to have over them, in Caſe he wanted their Aſſiſtance to oppoſe the Enterprizes of the *Ruſſians* againſt him, eſpecially when his *Imperial* Majeſty is always in want of the moſt perſuaſive Argument, *Money*?

But we have not only ſuffered the *Muſcovites* to give Law to *Poland*, but are likewiſe entered jointly

jointly with them into a War againſt the *Turk*; in a Time, and at a Juncture, when we were the leſs able to purſue it with Vigor, and with ſome Hopes of Succeſs. Where moſt of our Electors, jealous, or either diſſatisfied at the Steps lately taken by our Court for to procure the Empire to the Duke of *Loraine*, were ſo little inclinable to furniſh their Contingent; and when the Imperial Treaſure had been exhauſted, by a late and unſucceſsful War againſt *France*. We expected, perhaps, that our Arms would have been attended with the ſame Succeſs as they had been when we made the advantageous Treaty of *Paſſarowitz*; but Prince *Eugene* is no more, and we want Money, ſo juſtly called the Nerve of War. No doubt but we have flattered our ſelves from the Beginning, that we ſhould have raiſed Contributions enough, in the Enemy's Country, to ſubſiſt our Troops, but have been unhappily diſappointed: We depended, alſo, for Troops and Money, on our faithful Ally the *Czarina*, in whoſe Behalf we have imprudently undertaken this deſtructive War; but we have not ſeen yet that her Forces have been able to join ours, though ſhe had found Means to ſend them againſt *France* upon the *Rhine*; perhaps, becauſe at that Time ſhe wanted to make her Troops acquainted with the Roads of *Germany*, when at preſent ſhe finds it is enough for her to make what Conqueſts ſhe can on the Side of *Turky*, which is more to her

Conve-

Conveniency, which she can the easier keep and defend, and to which the Emperor could or would not lay any Claim, and leave him to do the same on his Side, in Hopes, perhaps, he would meet with more Difficulties; for her *Czarian* Majesty knows but too well, that it is not her Interest that the *Turks* should be crushed by the Emperor. As for Money, I have never heard yet, that the Philosopher's Stone has been found in *Russia*; and it is surprising to me, considering the Revenue of the *Russian* Empire, the *Czarina* should find enough to supply her vast Expences, far from being capable to assist her Allies that Way: Therefore every Thing rightly considered, it is his Imperial Majesty's Interest, to make as soon as possible, if not an advantageous, at least an honourable Peace with the *Turks*; least by another unfortunate Campaigne, he should be forced to make a very dishonourable one; and leave the *Czarina* to pursue a War, which her Ambition has made her undertake so scandalously, and in which we have had the Imprudence to assist her. Her Succours in the Affairs of *Poland*, in which she minded more her own Interest, as I have proved heretofore, than ours, will never be worth the Shift we are daily put to, by taking her Part against the *Turks*; or ever answer the considerable Losses we have met with in our several Campaigns of both Men and Places. We should have stayed till our Finances had been repaired, before we had

had ventured to have any Difference with the *Turks*; laid hold of the pacifick Diſpoſitions in which his ſublime Highneſs ſeemed to be toward us, to have prevented an open Rupture. The *Porte*, little Politick as ſhe is, muſt nevertheleſs have been aſtoniſhed to ſee us eſpouſe with ſo much Warmth, the Intereſt of a Nation, contrary to our natural one; what will our natural Allies ſay, when they ſee us forced to mortgage to *France*, *Luxembourg* and Part of the *Netherlands*, which had always ſerved as a Barrier to the exorbitant Power, and unlimited Ambition of that Crown, for a Sum of Money, to enable us to purſue this expenſive War? And what will become then of the Ballance of *Europe?* And of what Signification is it to be for the future, the Alliance of the *Dutch* kept in Awe by ſo formidable a Neighbour, who, thereby, will be Maſter of the Keys of their Country?

If it is objected that we have no Need to Care for their future State, ſince by the laſt Treaty of *Vienna*, all the Jealouſies and Differences between us and *France* being ſettled, we are not likely to want ſo ſoon the Aſſiſtance of the *Dutch*, or any other of thoſe Allies, by whom we have been ſo ſhamefully abandon'd in our late War with that Crown; I'll anſwer, that there is very little Foundation to be made upon Treaties ſo extraordinary in their Nature. That the different Pretenſions;

of the two Houſes of *Auſtrich* and *France*, have always been thought, even by the moſt skilful and experienced Miniſters, of ſuch Kind, as never to be amicably accommodated. That it is not ſurprizing that the *French*, ſeem at preſent ſo tractable, and ſo prone to enter into our Meaſures, when they are likely to gain, *ſans Coups ferir*, as they call it, a free Paſſage into the very Bowels of *Germany*; where they have wanted ſo long to gain the upper Hand. That rendering them intirely Maſters of the *Rhine* on their Side under their bare Promiſe, they will not attempt further, is a very feeble Bar toward their croſſing that River whenever they pleaſe, and have a Mind to give Law in the Empire in Gratitude, for that extraordinary Piece of Condeſcenſion, or rather Generoſity. They are Guarantees of the *Pragmatick Sanction*; but how could they have refuſed it upon ſuch advantageous Terms? and who knows but they may make Uſe of what we grant them at preſent, to be nearer at Hand to hinder the Execution thereof? and who can blame them, were we even to render them Maſters of the whole Empire? Since, *volenti non fit injuria*; I ſhould rather think them very unwiſe to refuſe any Advantages offered to them on any Condition, or Conſideration whatſoever. Our Miniſters at preſent, are ſo well perſuaded that the *French* would make a Scruple of Conſcience to break the moſt inſignificant Articles of a Treaty, that they ſeem

diſpoſed

diſpoſed to yield to them, without the leaſt Jealouſy, what has coſt us, for many Ages paſt, ſo many Millions of Men and Money to defend againſt them. Some pretend that the *French Louis d'or*, have a very great Influence over our Councils, and that all theſe *miraculous Variations* are owing to the *extraordinary Qualities*, of that *Magnet*, in which they are followed by ſome other Miniſters in *Chriſtendom*, who, like them, ſell their Country, and pocket the Price thereof. Others ſay, on the contrary, that our Miniſters are actuated by no other Motives than of being revenged of our antient Allies, for their Inaction in our late War with *France*, when it was ſo much their own Intereſt to preſerve to us the Poſſeſſion of thoſe two Kingdoms we have loſt in *Italy*; but rather than to take upon me to decide that Controverſy, I chuſe to finiſh my Letter, by aſſuring you that I am,

SIR,

Yours, &c.

The INTEREST *of the* ELECTORS *of the Empire.*

The INTEREST of the Elector of *Bavaria.*

SIR, *Munich Feb.* 22, 1739.

OUR Prince Elector looks with as much Indifference upon what's tranſacting at the Courts of *Vienna*, *Verſailles*, and *Madrid*, (in all Appearance contrary to his Intereſt) as if it no Way concerned his Electoral Highneſs. All Europe thought that the illuſtrious Houſe of *Bavaria*, ſtood very fair for the Empire at this Emperor's Demiſe, who is very likely to dye without Iſſue Male; eſpecially when there are already two other Princes of the ſame Houſe in the College of the Electors; and could have expected to ſee his Election ſupported by *France*, and the other Princes of the Empire, whom that Crown could have brought into her Meaſures; but all our Elector's

Hopes

Hopes on that Side ſeemed entirely vaniſhed, by the Concluſion of the late Treaty of *Vienna*. Though, perhaps, his *Electoral Highneſs* may think otherwiſe, and look upon that Treaty as a mere Farce, occaſioned by the Neceſſity of the Times, and which might be ſucceeded by a bloody Tragedy, in Caſe *France* was called upon at the *Emperor*'s Death to fulfill her Engagements with the Houſe of *Loraln*. Therefore the Duke of *Bavaria* muſt think within himſelf, that he ſtands ſtill the ſame Chance he did, before the Guaranty of the *Pragmatick Sanction*, by his *moſt Chriſtian Majeſty*; which I am the more apt to believe, becauſe the Coutt of *Munich* ſeem as much as ever inflamed by that of *Verſailles*, and animated by the Spirit of the old Cardinal; which could not be, if his Electoral Highneſs thought his Intereſt entirely abandoned by his Eminence, ſince every Body knows that his chief Dependance, for his Election for the Imperial Throne, is on that Side. His Backwardneſs to ſend his Contingent to the Emperor's Aſſiſtance into *Hungary*, is a certain Proof, that he entertains yet the ſame Hopes which hindered him from ſending his Troops upon the *Rhine*, and engaged him to proteſt againſt our late War with *France*. Time alone will ſhew if my Conjectures are juſt, and convince you of the Sincerity with which I am,

SIR,

Entirely yours, &c.

The

The INTEREST *of the King of* Pruſſia, *Elector of* Brandenbourg.

SIR, *Berlin, March* 1, 1739.

IT ſeems as if our King had no other Intereſt than to aſſemble from all Parts of the World an Army of Gyants, as if he would renew one time or other the old Quarrel, of thoſe unſizable Gentlemen againſt the Gods. For I don't ſee what any other View he can have for keeping ſo long on Foot, and in Time of Peace, ſo formidable an Army: Unleſs it was to cauſe ſome Jealouſy to his Neighbours, eſpecially the *Dutch*, who do not ſeem overfond of his Majeſty's Neighbourhood; and would be better pleaſed to ſee him keep at ſome Diſtance from them, than to have him ſo near a Neighbour; though the King of *Pruſſia* is of a contrary Opinion, and thinks it his Intereſt to be within the Call of their High Mightineſſes; rather, perhaps, to oppreſs when the Occaſion ſerves, than to aſſiſt them, if oppreſſed by ſome Body elſe; for then in all Likelihood, his *Pruſſian* Majeſty would endeavour to get his Share of the Spoils; of which the States General are ſo conſcious, that they find always ſome Subterfuge to evade, on all Occaſions, eſpouſing

fing his Intereſt, as it plainly appears in the Affair of *Bergue* and *Juliers*.

It has been for a long While rumour'd amongſt us, that his *Pruſſian Majeſty* has entertain'd ſome Thoughts of the Empire, which might prove vain without the Help of ſo formidable an Army; and even with it, I cannot but think them very ridiculous; but let it be how it will, I am, nevertheleſs,

SIR,

Your's, &c.

The INTEREST of *Holland*.

SIR, *Hague*, *March* 12, 1739.

THE *Dutch* themſelves had always thought, till lately, that their true and real Intereſt conſiſted in defending themſelves againſt the Ambition of *France*, and, by ſiding with *England*, help that Crown to keep in her own Hands the Ballance of *Europe*; but their late Conduct ſeems very contrary to thoſe Principles, and leave us Room to think, that their High Mightineſſes, having conſulted their *Ephemerides*, have found that their

their Government was come to its laſt Period. The wrong Meaſures they have enter'd into; their falſe Politicks in truſting too far, or depending too blindly on the Sincerity and repeated Aſſurances of Friendſhip of a Court, from which they have all to fear; their Imprudence in deſerting their natural Allies, are the Forerunners of a Revolution in their State. They find that a too long Series of Proſperity grows, at laſt, as burthenſome as a too long one of Adverſity. The *Dutch* have been too long happy; *like ſome of their Neighbours*, they are ſurfeited with that Liberty, which their Anceſtors had purchaſed at the Price of their Blood, and thought an ineſtimable Jewel. They are looking for their old Chains in *Spain*, and hope that *France* will be ſo complaiſant to order that they might fit them to a T, and *a la mode*.——Tho' there are amonſt us, ſome old *ſtiff-necked Butter-Boxes*, whotoo much begotted to the Faſhion of their Country, would not like ſuch gay Equipage.

All *Europe* thought that the Marrige of the Prince of *Orange* with the *Princeſs Royal* of *England*, would have reſtored the mutual Confidence which had ſo long ſubſiſted between the two Nations, and which ſeem'd to have turn'd into a Sort of Jealouſy ever ſince the Acceſſion of the illuſtrious Houſe of *Hanover* to the Throne of *Great Britain*. The Prince of *Orange* himſelf thought his

his Intereſt in the States ſtrengthen'd by that Alliance; and the *Engliſh* Miniſtry expected thereby to gain a greater Influence over their Councils; but it has happen'd otherwiſe, ſince the Coldneſs between them at preſent ſeems rather greater than ever; and they have ſhewn ſo great an Averſion even to the very Name of a *Stadtholder*, ever ſince King *William*'s Death, that tho' his Moſt Serene Highneſs the preſent Prince of *Orange* is a Prince of a rare and diſtinguiſh'd Merit, he has nevertheleſs loſt more Ground in *Holland*, and appeared more ſuſpected to their High Mightineſſes ſince his Marriage, than heretofore; and the *Engliſh* Miniſtry has made ſo poor a Figure for theſe twenty Years paſt, and has acquired ſo little Reputation in *Europe*, that the States, rather than have the Scandal of being thought influenced by it, or enter into its blundering Meaſures, have preferr'd to throw themſelves, at all Events, into the Arms of their natural Enemies. Every Body elſe would have follow'd their Example in ſuch a Caſe; for none but *Mules* would —— with *Aſſes*; but very few would refuſe to ſubſcribe themſelves,

Dear SIR;

Your's, &c.

The INTEREST of *France.*

SIR, Verſailles, March 18, 1739.

OUR Intereſt is to render ourſelves formidable by our Arms, or by our Politicks; the one extends the Limits of our Frontiers, and the other, weakens our Enemies by ſowing Diffidence and Jealouſy amongſt them, and ſetting them often together by the Ears. The firſt has been conducted with an incredible Succeſs, and in all Ages, ever ſince the Eſtabliſhment of the *French* Monarchy, by the moſt warlike of our Princes, and the ſecond managed with great Dexterity, by our moſt wiſe and skilful Miniſters; tho' we have not the ridiculous Vanity, like ſome of our Neighbours, to think ourſelves the braveſt Nation in the World, or either invincible, tho' we are not the moſt witty People; our vaſt Conqueſts, and the many Victories gain'd over our Enemies, even when all join'd againſt us, is a convincing Proof that we have Courage enough, if not to beat two of equal Strength with us, at leaſt to cope with the Braveſt amongſt them; and our Treaties and Negotiations ſo ſucceſsfully conducted, ſhew we have Wit enough to conſult our own Intereſt, and often to outwit them all.

Our late King *Louis* XIV. did make Uſe of thoſe two Expedients to ſtrengthen his Intereſt,

and

and until the latter End of his Reign, when unhappily wrapt up in an old weak Woman's Petticoat, carry'd both with incredible Succeſs. Brave in his Perſon he preferr'd no Body in thoſe fortunate Days to the Command of his Armies, but *Heroes* like himſelf, and uncommonly wiſe; he truſted no other Miniſters but thoſe he had known, by a long Experience capable to manage under him the Affairs of his Kingdom: On that firm Foundation he had eſtabliſh'd all his Intereſt and Glory; and the prodigious great Deſign he had form'd of extending his Empire as far as its antient Limits under the *ſecond Race* of our Kings; for tho', Jealouſy had repreſented that Project, glorious in itſelf, as the Effect of our Ambition out of Meaſure, and even of the greateſt Injuſtice, *Louis* XIV. had, however, no other View, than to conquer what had been diſmember'd, from the *French* Monarchy.

His illuſtrious Succeſſor our preſent King *Louis* XV. whom we can juſtly call the Father of his People, and *francorum Deliciæ*, ſenſible that a War, let it be ever ſo proſperous, always gives a very dangerous Wound to the State, which nothing elſe but Length of Time can heal, ſtruck with Admiration, at the courageous Intrepedity and warlike Humour of his Great Grandfather and Predeceſſor, has thought it more agreeable to his own private Happineſs, and his Subjects Felicity, to

assert his, and their Interest, by pacifick than violent Means, and his Majesty has not been frustrated in his Expectation; for without Blows, and without exposing the Lives of his most faithful Subjects, (as dear to him, as his own) assisted therein by the most dexterous, most wise, most impartial, and most disinterested Minister, that has ever set at the Helm of the French Affairs; he has accomplish'd, by Treaty, what all the Strength of a powerful Nation had left imperfect.

The *Cardinal Fleury*, whose Memory will be bless'd among us, as long as the *French* Monarchy shall subsist, and as long as there will be a true *Frenchman* left upon Earth, has by an assiduous and indefatigable Labour, found the Secret to reconcile all *Spaniards* to dissipate those rank Jealousies which had so long subsisted between us and other Nations, and to make the most inveterate Enemies of the *French* Name enter into his Measures, and finding Means at the same Time, to render them as jealous of each other, as they had ever been of us.

Persuaded that the Execution of our best concerted Measures, would always meet with some Difficulty, as long as the *Ballance* of *Europe* should be in other Hands, his *Eminence*, has cajoled them out of it, who for a considerable Time had claim'd an undoubted Right to it; and when once

once in Poſſeſſion of it, has made all the good Uſe which could be expected from it. Since at preſent the *Cardinal*'s Will, or Command, is of a greater Efficacy amongſt our Neighbours, than was the moſt formidable of our Armies, under *Conde*, *Turenne*, *Luxembourg*, *Vandome*, *Catinat*, &c. &c. in the late Reign.

The Houſe of *Auſtrich*, which had always been our Rival in Glory, and had always thought her Intereſts incompatible with ours, believes them at preſent, by the *ardinal*'s Dexterity, to be equally the ſame; tho', perhaps, our Miniſter is of a contrary Opinion, at leaſt, ſome of our Politicians think ſo; for ſay They, if his *Eminence* is ſincere in his Alliance with the *Emperor*, why does he defer ſo long the Concluſion of the Peace, between his *Imperial* Majeſty and the *Turks*? Since it is in his Power to put a finiſhing Hand to it whenever he pleaſes. To which I could anſwer, that it is rather an Effect of the Deſire that his *Eminence* has of being revenged of the *Czarina*'s Conduct in *Poland*, than of his Want of Sincerity for the *Emperor*, ſince, had his *Imperial* Majeſty abandon'd that Prince's Intereſt (which in no Ways ſquare with his own) as ſo often ſollicited to it by our Court, the Peace had been a long While ago concluded between him and the *Turks*, even to his Advantage and Satisfaction.

'Tis

'Tis true that the Cardinal has diveſted the Emperor of two Kingdoms in *Italy*; but without retaining the leaſt Part of it, he has inveſted with it a Prince of *Spain*, from which thoſe Dominions had been diſmember'd. Beſides, it was againſt the Intereſt of moſt of the Princes of *Europe*, and of *France* in Particular, that the Emperor ſhould be ſo powerful in thoſe Parts; even his natural Allies, by their Inaction, while they could have hinder'd that Conqueſt, ſeem'd to be jealous of it. His Eminence had put his Imperial Majeſty's Dominions in his Ballance, and had found them too weighty: Nay, even at preſent, the Cardinal does not think them within their juſt Limits, and would not be ſorry, perhaps, that one or two more Campaigns in *Hungary* ſhould force the Emperor to mortgage to *France* Part of the *Netherlands* for a Sum of Money. I am ſure that it is much the Intereſt of our Court, as the only Means to keep the *Dutch* in Awe, at which they are ſo much alarmed, that his Eminence wanted all his Skill to calm their Fears; he has even enchanted them ſo far, as to render them indifferent toward the Admiſſion of *French* Troops into *Bergues* and *Juliers*, to ſecure the Poſſeſſion of that State to the Houſe of *Sultzbach*, and to render them deaf to the repeated Inſtances of the King of *Pruſsia*, who claims a Right to it. I ſay to ſecure the Poſſeſsion, becauſe that Reſtriction of few Years, till all Difference might be amicably

cably accomodated, is only an Evaſion, of no Weight among our more refined Politicians.

His Eminence, by making our King Guarantee of the Pragmatick Sanction, ſeems, in that Point, to have deviated from our true Intereſt, ſince it is intirely againſt it, that a Prince of the Houſe of *Lorain* ſhould be Emperor, who, at that Time, would be very apt to revoke what he had been obliged to yield to the Neceſsity of the Times; and endeavour to regain by his Arms, what he had loſt by a few Strokes of his Pen. Yes, but who ſhall be Guarantee of the Execution of that Guarantee of the Pragmatick Sanction on the Part of *France*, eſpecially if we find in Time, that it might prove contrary to our Intereſt? What his Eminence has done, for the Acquiſition of *Lorain*, and perhaps of ſome other State contiguous to it, we might be apt to undo, for the Preſervation of it, unleſs we find Means to guard ourſelves on that Side againſt all Attempts whatſoever, ſo that we could have nothing to fear from the Emperor; ſince no Prince have ever thought themſelves bound by Treaties any longer than it ſuited their own Intereſt.

His Eminence's Conduct towards our Court is repreſented here in a various Light; for ſome of us believe, that the great Harmony and ſtrict Union which ſeemingly ſubſiſt between the two Crowns,

is owing to the ancient Friendſhip which has ſo long ſubſiſted between the two illuſtrious Houſes of *France* and *Hanover*; and that none of our Kings will ever undertake any Thing which could prejudice that Friendſhip, as long as a Prince of that Houſe ſhall ſit on the Throne of *Great Britain*, unleſs his *Britannick* Majeſty break the Union firſt, and be the firſt Aggreſſor.

Others, on the contrary, pretend, that there is no Sincerity in that Friendſhip; and that our Cardinal has only made Uſe of it to render *England* ſuſpected to its natural Allies, that his Eminence might the eaſier *dividere, & Imperare*; which once accompliſh'd, he will put in Execution ſome Projects very diſadvantageous to the *Engliſh* Nation: For, ſay they, if this was not our Cardinal's Deſign, why ſhould he have taken ſo much Pains to deter *England*, in Part by Promiſes, and in Part by Menaces, from aſſiſting the Emperor, during the late War in *Italy*, when ſhe had guaranteed, by the moſt ſolemn Treaties, the Poſſeſſion of the Dominions raviſh'd, at that Time, from his Imperial Majeſty, ſince he knew perfectly well, that ſuch Breach of Faith on the Part of *Great Britain*, would cauſe a Jealouſy, and ſet the Courts of *London* and *Vienna* at Varience? And conſequently render it the eaſier for him to gain the Emperor on his Side; which we know has ſucceeded to his Wiſhes. A very difficult Task, if

even

ever there was one, which no *French* Miniſter had ever dared to attempt before; and which none but the Cardinal *Fleury* could ever have managed with ſuch Dexterity, and ſo happily perfected. Tho' we all know very well, that if once we could break what is call'd the *Grand Alliance*, we might be able to cruſh every one of the Grand Allies, in their Turn; yet none of the moſt skilful of our Miniſters had ever entertain'd the Hope of bringing into our Meaſures the *Principal* of that *Grand Alliance*, and in whoſe Defence chiefly it had been concluded; ſuch *Coup de Maitre*, was reſerved for his Eminence.

Another Tract of conſummate Politicks in our Cardinal, is, his having laid the Foundation for *France* to ingroſs, together with *Spain*, and, in Proceſs of Time, the whole Commerce of the *Levant*, by rendering themſelves Maſters of the beſt Ports in the *Mediterranean*. Therefore, if his Eminence's preferring his Royal Maſter's Intereſt to all other Conſiderations whatſoever, is a convincing Proof of the Sincerity of his Friendſhip for you, we are certainly in the Wrong to call it in Queſtion; but if, on the contrary, all I have heretofore alledged, join'd to the great Care he has taken ever ſince he has been declared firſt Miniſter of *France*, to have continued, at the Head of your Affairs, a Perſon, who, by a long Series of Blunders and Miſcarriages, had already

incurred the publick Hatred, and has ſince found the Secret to revive amongſt you the Spirit of Party, which ſeem'd almoſt dorment; and if, agreeable to his Predeceſſors Politicks, by blowing the Fire, it appears, that the Cardinal has no other Deſign than to make that Friendſhip ſubſervient to his Deſigns, I do not ſee what great Advantages the *Engliſh* Nation might expect to reap from it; unleſs it be the Honour of becoming, one Time or other, a Province to *France*; which would procure me that of calling you Friends, Countrymen, and Fellow-Citizens; and myſelf then, more than ever,

SIR,

Your's, &c.

The INTEREST of *England*.

SIR, *Verſailles, March* 25, 1739.

AS you have been pleaſed to inform me lately, that you are afraid at this critical Juncture, to declare too openly your Sentiments, on the preſent Situation of your foreign or domeſtick Affairs, leſt you ſhould be chaced by a *Pack*

of

of Greyhounds, which the *Miniſterial Huntſman P——n*, is always putting upon the *Scent*; I am ſure that you will not be ſorry, to know, what we think of it on this Side of the Water.

You muſt be inform'd, then, Sir, that I belong to a Society, which, from the firſt of its Eſtabliſhment, till of late Years, had entertain'd a moſt advantageous Opinion of the Wiſdom, Prudence, Sagacity, and Politicks of an *Engliſh* Miniſtry; but which your late Tranſactions have changed into the greateſt Contempt; the moſt devoted amongſt us, to the *Engliſh* Intereſt, for we are call'd here, *francois Engliſies*, or *Engliſes*, are ſtruck dumb when we mention the Preſent Poſture of Affairs, and when ever we are urged to declare our Sentiments upon it, with both our Hands and Eyes, lifted up to Heaven, we anſwer no otherwiſe than by this Exclamation, *Oh les Grands Aſnes! Oh les Grandes Beſtes!* and then, fall again into our former *Reverie* without proceeding any farther.

Others leſs bigotted to the *Engliſh* Intereſt, take the Cudgel and endeavour to make a Recapitulation (intermix'd now and then with a ſcornful Smile) of all your M——rs Miſcarriages and Blunders (as they are pleaſed to call them) ever ſince they have been at the Helm of your Affairs; they enlarge eſpecially upon that Affair of *Sicily*,

in 1718, when Sir *George Bing*, your Admiral, attack'd the *Spaniards*, while your Ambaſſador at *Madrid*, was making the moſt ſolemn Proteſtations, that you was to appear there, at that Juncture, only as Mediators; which Affair, they call Perfidy and a ſcandalous Breach of the Publick Faith given; and which has (as they pretend) occaſion'd that Inveteracy, and implacable Animoſity ſubſiſting at preſent between the two Nations, thinking it impoſſible ever to bring the *Spaniards* to a ſincere Reconciliation, till they have been thoroughly revenged of it; which they have attempted ever ſince, and which they will effect at any Rate; for (continue our Politicians) have not the *Spaniards*, ever ſince, endeavour'd to render their Commerce precarious, both in the *Mediterranean* and on the *Atlantick* Ocean, by plundering or ſeizing their Merchants Ships? Have they not ſince by their frequent Alarms, put the *Engliſh* Nation, to the vaſt Expences of equipping large Squadrons, and all to no Purpoſe? Have they not ever ſince been employ'd in finding Ways and Means to tranſport the Commerce the *Engliſh* uſed to drive with them to the *French* Nation? And have they not at laſt accompliſh'd it? Where was the Wiſdom of the *Engliſh* M——y, while thoſe Projects, ſo oppoſite to the Intereſt of their Country, were tranſacting? Was it aſleep? And, if not, why did they not exert all their Might to defeat them? But no; they have acted as if

they

they had been reſolved to conſult any other Intereſt but their own, (I mean that of their Nation,) or rather, as if they would ſacrifice the Intereſt of *England* to all others: For, in 1718, they thought the Preſervation of the *Emperor*'s Dominions in *Italy* of ſo great Conſequence to them, that they even ſet then their Nation's Honour and Reputation at a Venture, and laid one of the beſt Branches of their Commerce at Stake, for to run to his Aſſiſtance; and, in 1734, thoſe very ſame Eſtates appear'd as inſignificant to the *Engliſh* M——rs as their *Honour* and *Reputation*.

I could not help ſiding with thoſe ill-natured Gentlemen, in that Particular; for in Fact it was the Intereſt of the *Engliſh* to ſecure, by their Arms, as well as they had done by Treaties, the Poſſeſſion of thoſe States to the Emperor, unleſs the Miniſtry was reſolved to render *France* and *Spain* ſtill more formidable in thoſe Parts, and to throw intirely into the Hands of thoſe two Nations their own Commerce to the *Levant*, and in the *Mediterranean* Sea; which Inconvenience could not have been met with, while his Imperial Majeſty had been Maſter of the two *Sicilies*; ſince *England* had nothing to fear from his Power at Sea which cannot be ſaid of *France*, *Spain*, and the King of *Naples* join'd together; neither could the Emperor have ever been ſuſpected to have the leaſt Inclination (conſidering the Jealouſy which muſt have unavoidably ſubſiſted between him,

France,

France, and *Spain*,) to join with thoſe two Powers, or either of them, to interrupt our Commerce in thoſe Seas; which, as Matters ſtand at preſent, through the Indolence, Imprudence, ill Politicks (not to ſay worſe) of your Miniſter, muſt be, in Proceſs of Time, intirely deſtroy'd. For what can protect it, your Acquiſitions, or Conqueſts in thoſe Parts? But alas! how feeble are the Succours you can draw from thence, when compared to the united Strength of *France* and *Spain*, who can have always a formidable Fleet, which they can equip on the *Mediterranean*, and ſupply with Men and Proviſions, when you muſt be forced to fetch your Ships and Ammunition of all Kind from *England*. Beſides, how long will you be Maſters of *Minorca* and *Gibraltar*, when once all *Europe*, at leaſt the moſt fromidable Powers in it, will be bent to depoſſeſs you of them? I know the *Engliſh* are brave, that they are very powerful by Sea; but they are not invincible: And they are to encounter with Foes not inferior to them in Courage; and they muſt agree with me, that Fortune decides as often the Fate of Battles, as Undauntedneſs and Bravery; and if once they have a Check in the Streights, they muſt return to *England* to refit; while their Enemies can do it upon the Spot, and appear in two or three Weeks as formidable as ever.

It was then your Intereſt, Sir, to prevent the growing of thoſe dangerous Evils, by timely aſ-

ſiſting

ſiſting the Emperor, when attack'd in *Italy* by the *French* and *Spaniards*; but, inſtead of that, you have not only ſeen, unconcern'd, *Naples* and *Sicily* wreſted from him, but, with the ſame Indifference, ſeen him likewiſe throw himſelf into the Arms of *France*, and conclude with it and *Spain* a Treaty which ſhould alarm all *Europe*.

Is it not through the Confidence of that Treaty that *Spain* has, at preſent, the preſumptuous Temerity to inſult your Flag, and lord it over you, as if you were obliged to receive Laws from it; you, ſays the brave *Engliſhman*, whom, twenty Years ago, a *Spaniard* had not dared to look in the Face? But how can you help it? The Ignorance, or —— of your M——r has render'd the Wound incurable. For if even you was to attempt, at preſent, to change Foils, and enter into a War with *Spain*, as the whole Nation ſeems inclinable, how could you do it with the leaſt Hopes of Succeſs? Your M--r himſelf confeſſes, that you have no Allies to be depended upon; for it cannot be reaſonably ſuppoſed, that *France* would deſert the *Emperor* and *Spain*, with whom ſhe has lately contracted ſo ſtrict and advantageous an Alliance, to take your Part; eſpecially when it is ſo much againſt her own Intereſt. Beſides, who knows but that Treaty might be concluded to your entire Deſtruction; for you have not yet forgot that for ever memorable one of

Par-

Partition, made under your late King *William*; and Heaven forbid, for your own Sake, that the one ſhould be attended with better Succeſs than was the other.

The *Dutch* are ſo well hook'd in, and ſo much kept in Awe by their Neighbours, that they dare not ſtir, if even they had the greateſt Inclination to aſſiſt you, leſt, by a wrong Step, they ſhould run the Riſque of being ſwallow'd up: And who knows but the King of *Spain* waits for ſo favourable an Opportunity, to ſeize on thoſe Provinces, which have revolted from the *Spaniſh* Monarchy.

Money is the Sinews of the War; but, if I am rightly inform'd, you have ſpent ſo much, for theſe late Years, in ſecret Services, that you have little or none left; and you have been ſo backward in paying your Debts, that I don't believe you'll find any Body very forward to lend you more. You have a vaſt Number of Ships, it is true, and perhaps Men enough to arm a formidable Fleet; but will thoſe Ships go upon the dry Land; or are your Enemies obliged to man another, on Purpoſe to have the Honour of being beaten by you? Or to oppoſe an Invaſion of their Country, while, on the contrary, the Fate of yours depends on that of a Sea Fight, ſince there is always a conſiderable Party amongſt you, ready to ſide with the Invader.

No Doubt but your Men have Courage enough; but they have languiſh'd ſo long in the Indolency of an uninterrupted Peace, that they muſt want that Experience, ſo abſolutely requiſite to fight with Succeſs; which the *French* and *Spaniards* have acquired by frequent Skirmiſhes with their Enemies: Therefore it would be almoſt Preſumptious in you to flatter yourſelves with the Hopes of a ſucceſsful War, unleſs, by a Change in your Miniſtry, you regain the Confidence of your ancient and natural Allies; ſet your Finances on a better Footing, by reſtoring the publick Credit; and calm the inteſtine Diviſions, which weaken the State.

I am,

SIR, Your's, &c.

The INTEREST of *Spain.*

SIR, Madrid, April 1, 1739

IF you follow exactly, Step by Step, all the Meaſures of the Court of *Madrid*, ever ſince the firſt Time the famous *Cardinal Alberoni* was ſet at the Helm of the *Spaniſh* Adminiſtration, you'll find that his *Catholick* Majeſty has had no other View, than to regain, by his Arms,

or by Treaty, what had been diſmember'd, from Time to Time, from the *Spaniſh* Monarchy, in order to form out of it ſeparate Dominions for the Princes his Children, for fear (as he expected to be bleſs'd with a numerous Poſterity) the Ambition, ſo natural to Princes of living independant, ſhould force them to form ſome Projects contrary to each others Intereſts.

The Fleet which you deſtroy'd, on the Coaſt of *Sicily*, was deſign'd to diſlodge the *Emperor* out of that Kingdom; and the Miſcarriage of that Enterprize, at that Time, did not diſcourage the Court of *Madrid* ſo far, as to make her lay it entirely aſide. Mean while, the whole *Spaniſh* Nation was ſo enraged at the unexpected Conduct of your Miniſtry, which they call'd perfidious, that they had propoſed to themſelves ſeveral Expedients, as well to be revenged, as to put you entirely out of Power to make uſe, at any other Time, of ſuch *violent Mediation*; and finding, after many frivolous Attempts, they could not accompliſh their Deſigns, they had Recourſe to craſty political Means.

Their firſt Project of that Kind, was to alarm you for ſeveral Years, with the intended Introduction of *Don Carlos* in *Italy*; which, at firſt, was thought ſo contrary to your Intereſt, by your Miniſters and the miniſterial Emiſſaries, that the

the *Britiſh* Nation was as much terrify'd by their Clamours on that Subject, as if the Fate of the three Kingdoms had been at Stake. The Parliament was teized by long and repeated Speeches, and the Nation lull'd aſleep by their——political Eſſays, till thoſe amongſt you (who, on all Occaſions, have appear'd the moſt zealous for the Intereſt of their Country, and had appear'd unconcern'd as long as they had ſeen no Danger, finding that the Court of *Spain* was in earneſt, and entirely bent upon that Expedition) began to chime with the Miniſtry, and find as many Inconveniecies in the Introduction of *Don Carlos* into *Italy*: For though your Miniſters, by a Spirit of Contradiction, or inflamed by ſomething elſe—, began to alter their Tone; and, far from finding that Introduction contrary to the *Engliſh* Intereſt, or to that of their Allies, they left no Stone unturn'd till they had brought the *Emperor* (contrary to his Intereſt) to conſent to it; and we have ſeen at laſt, thoſe ſame Squadrons, fitted out before to oppoſe it, bring *Don Carlos* in Triumph into *Italy*, under the bare, or rather frivolous Promiſes, that he ſhould attempt no farther than the Succeſſion of *Parma*, *Placentia*, and the *Great Dukedom* of *Tuſcany*; though your Miniſters muſt have been conſcious, that ſuch Promiſes extorted by them from his *Catholick* Majeſty, to plaiſter their treacherous, or impolitical Conduct, ſhould be no longer ſacred to him, than he could find

the Opportunity to break it. The Death of the late King of *Poland* happening ſoon after, offer'd him a very favourable one; for the King of *Spain* joining with *France*, who ſtood for King *Staniſlaus*, and the *Emperor* favouring the Election of the Elector of *Saxony*; *Don Carlos*, powerfully aſſiſted by the *French* and the King of *Sardinia*, and the *Emperor* deſerted by *England* and *Holland*, re-conquer'd, in few Weeks, the two flouriſhing Kingdoms of *Naples* and *Sicily*, whoſe Conqueſt had coſt ſo much Blood to the *Grand Alliance*.

A leſs ambitious Princeſs than the Queen of *Spain* could have been ſatisfy'd, by having ſo well provided *for the preſent*, *for her Darling*. But no; ſhe carried her Pretentions ſtill further, and carried an underhand Intrigue at the Court of *Vienna*, in the Time of the War, to patch up a ſecret Peace with the *Emperor*, on Condition, that *Don Carlos* ſhould marry the eldeſt Archdutcheſs, that, at his *Imperial Majeſty*'s Death, he might be elected *Emperor*; but that Princeſs being, at that Time, betroathed to the Duke of *Lorain*, and the Queen of *Spain*'s Mine ſprung up by her Allies, ſhe was forced, at laſt, to act in Concert with them, and expect from a Treaty, Part of which ſhe had endeavour'd to gain by Fineſs, and which will be the Conſequence of the laſt concluded at *Vienna*, between the *Emperor*, *France*, *Spain*, and the King of *Sardinia*; for *Don Philip* will be likewiſe introduced

duced into *Italy*, even in Spight of all your Armaments; if, contrary to your modern Politicks, you would venture to oppoſe it (unleſs you prefer to it the Honour of lending a helping Hand to that Prince, as you have already done to his *Sicilian* Majeſty) the Grand Duke of *Tuſcany* ſhall be obliged to buy the Intereſt of *France* and *Spain* at the dear Rate of his Dominions in *Italy*, out of which, and ſome other States which might be gueſs'd at, ſhall be erected a Kingdom of *Lombardy* for *Don Philip*. If the Iſland of *Corſica* is to be made a Province of it; or if *France* deſigns to keep it in her own Hands, Time alone will determine; though I am apt to believe that *Corſica* will be made Part of the Portion of *Madame de France*.

No Doubt but his *Catholick* Majeſty will likewiſe renew his Pretenſions (and that very ſoon on *Minorca* and *Gibraltar*, which 'tis neither his Intereſt, or that of the Princes of *Italy*, it ſhould remain in your Hands; ſince, in Time of War, you could keep there a powerful Fleet, to alarm continually their Coaſts.

The *Dutch* ſeem apprehenſive (and well they may) that their Turn will come next; as being the Intereſt of the King of *Spain* to recall thoſe Rebels to their former Obedience; and it is with the greater Reluctance I am obliged to tell them, that I ſee their Government expiring. It

It is likewiſe, with as little Pleaſure, that I find myſelf obliged in Honour to forewarn you, that, in ſpight of your late Convention, his *Catholick* Majeſty will never renounce the pretended Right he claims to ſearch your Ships in the *Weſt Indies*; that his ſeeming preſent Condeſcention is only to gain Time; and that your intended Treaty will never be brought to a happy Concluſion; and all through the *ill Management*, *Blunders*, and *Miſcarriages* of your too wiſe M-----rs: For had the Concluſion of the late Treaty of *Vienna* preceded the Signature of the Conventions, you had never been put to the Trouble of voting *pro* and *con* in your Parliament, and never been tantalized with the Hopes of a ſpeedy Satisfaction for the *Spaniſh* Depredations, to which the Court of *Madrid* had never any the leaſt Propenſity. I wiſh, for your Sake, ſhe had as much as I have to declare myſelf,

SIR,

Entirely Your's, &c.

The INTEREST of *Sweden*.

SIR, *Stockholm*, *April* 15, 1739.

THE chief Intereſt of *Sweden*, at preſent, is to endeavour to regain the Provinces diſmember'd from it by the *Muſcovites*, in the unfortunate Days of *Charles* XIIth's Reign; and as the

the *Swedes* find *France* ready, by a Spirit of Revenge, to assist them in that glorious Enterprize, they are not to be blamed for laying hold of so favourable an Opportunity. 'Tis not at all surprizing they have preferr'd the advantageous Offers of the *French* Court to yours, since they know you so peaceably inclined, that nothing with your Help could ever be transacted, but by *Mediation*, *Plenipoes*, *grand Plot*, *Conventions*, *Treaties*, and I don't know what else, which after many Conferences, and an Army of Messengers, and Couriers dispatch'd on each Side, would at last take their ordinary Course, *i. e.* vanish into Smoak, and have no Effect, as all your Negociations have done for these twenty Years past. They think *Bellona*'s Voice, and *Mars*'s Thunder a far more persuasive Argument. I wish I could as easily convince you, that I am,

SIR,

Your's, &c.

P. S. Our King has been, of late, in such a precarious State of Health, that his Majesty is, at present, seldom seen in Publick. He has been subject (as pretended) to very violent Fits of the Gravel, which oblige him to keep his Chamber, and often his Bed; but I am of Opinion, that his greatest Distemper lies at his Heart, and affects his Mind; and that he is more chagrin at the visible Decay of his Interest in *Sweden*, than at that of his

his Conſtitution; for in Fact who can his Majeſty bear with Patience, that the ſingle Suſpicion of being in the Intereſt of the Houſe of *Heſſe*, is ſufficient to give the Excluſion from the Senate; and to ſee his Favourites in that Aſſembly ſupplanted by the Duke of Holſtein's Partizans, ſupported by *France*, whoſe Miniſters govern at preſent with as abſolute a Power at *Stockholm*, as they do at moſt of the principal Courts of *Eurepe*, in ſpight of all the Oppoſitions of *Ruſſia*, *Denmark*, and *England*, who would be better pleaſed to ſee our preſent King ſucceeded by a Prince of his Houſe, than by the Duke, who has ſo many Claims upon each of thoſe three Nations, and could make them good, in caſe he had once the Power in his Hands, which is his unqueſtionable Right, as being Son of the eldeſt Siſter of *Charles* the XIIth? Beſides, his Royal Highneſs could then, perhaps, defeat all the Meaſures concerted by the preſent *Czarina* to preſerve the Succeſſion to the Throne of *Ruſſia* to the Houſe of *Courland*; for every Body knows that he married the eldeſt Daughter of *Peter the Great*, and has a Prince by her. Since the ſame Will that call'd the Princeſs of *Courland* to that Throne, declares the Dutcheſs of *Holſtein-Gottorp*, and her Heirs, her Succeſſors; and it is certainly the Intereſt of *France* to ſupport the Intereſt of that injured Prince, as the moſt efficatious Means to clip the ambitious Wings of the

the *Ruſſians*, and to ſet juſt Limits to their over-growing Empire.

The INTEREST of *Ruſſia*.

SIR, *Petersbourg*, *May* 1, 1739.

WE are much afraid here, that the eaſy Conqueſt of *Aſoph* will coſt a great deal more than we expected at firſt, or that really it is worth. I do not know what Buſineſs we had to break with the *Turks*, for a Place which we know very well we could not keep long; and which, if it could not be wreſted from us by Force, we ſhould be obliged to ſurrender by a Treaty. Our *Empreſs*, fluſh'd with her Succeſs in *Poland*, had, perhaps, flatter'd herſelf with the Hopes of extending her Conqueſts on that Side as far as *Adrianople*, if not farther; but ſhe has found that Enterprize not ſo eaſy in the Execution, as ſhe had expected. The Incurſions of General *Laſey* into *Tartary* have been very chargeable to *Ruſſia*, both for Men and Money, and of no Profit. General *Munich* gain'd *Oczakow*, which we have been forced to abandon; but has never dared to

attempt *Bender*: And the Truth is, that from all our Skirmiſhes with the *Turks*, we always came out like *Trivelin, avec les Eſtivierres*. We would be glad at preſent, perhaps, to ſlip our Necks out of the Collar; but how, and which Way to do it with Honour, is what's unknown to us. Our Miniſters pretend that it was our Intereſt to begin this War with the *Turks*; and I wiſh they could make good their Aſſertion by the Succeſs of our Arms. I chuſe rather to think it was our Ambition, puffed up by ſome Advantages, which have gain'd us a Number of powerful Enemies, and cauſed ſome Outrages to our Friends and Allies; therefore we had acted a great deal wiſer, if we had not ſo ſcrupulouſly conſulted that pretended Intereſt, which has put our Neighbours in Mind, that it was theirs to undertake ſomething very oppoſite to our natural and real one: for had we ſat ſtill, or contented ourſelves with palming a King upon the *Polanders* (ſince we were reſolved to do it) we had not given Occaſion to the *Swedes* (by the Diſappointments we have met with on the Side of *Turky*) to meditate the Recovery of the Provinces they loſt to us after the Battle of *Paltowa*. Likely enough but we depend upon powerful Succours from *England*; but will *France* conſent to it? And if not, as they never will, what will become of us, when aſſaulted at once by the *Turks* and *Swedes* by Land, and block'd up by Sea by the confederate

federate Fleets of *France* and *Sweden?* Shall not we be forced to confeſs then, that it had been more our Intereſt to content ourſelves with what we had got, than to be expoſed to loſe all, by extending our ambitious Views farther. I wiſh our Miniſters had had, at that Time, a ſmall Share of the pacifick Diſpoſition of *Yours*; and would be convinced, that I am,

SIR,

Entirely yours, &c.

The INTEREST of the Court of *Rome*.

SIR, *May* 10, 1739.

WHEN I conſider that *Chriſt*, when converſing amongſt us, often declared, that his Kingdom was not of this World; and that denying here that the *Pope* is his Vicar upon Earth, is an Hereſy of the firſt Claſs, a high Road to the Inquiſition, and ſmells much of the Faggot: Methinks his Holineſs ſhould have no Intereſt but that of his Divine Maſter, which is

a ſpiritual one; or any other Ambition, like St *Paul*, *Gloriari in cruce Domini*; but when I ſee the *Sovereign Pontiff* ſurrounded with *Satellites*, raiſing Armies, intriguing at all the Courts of *Europe*, endeavouring to enlarge his Dominions by Policy, or open Force (tho his Divine Maſter had not always ſo much as a Place to reſt his ſacred Head upon) and claiming a Supremacy over the Temporality of Kings and Sovereign Princes, I am entirely at a Loſs, and leave you to think what you pleaſe, provided you do not queſtion the Sincerity with which I am,

SIR,

Your very humble,

and obedient Servant, &c.

The INTEREST of the Republick of *Venice*.

SIR, *Venice*, *April* 1:, 1739.

THE extraordinary Events which happen'd in *Europe* by the unexpected Death of the late King of *Poland*, and which have ſerved as a Pretext

text for *France* and *Spain*'s invading *Italy*, had a little diſconcerted the noble and majeſtick Gravity of our *Senators*; and our ancient Politicks ſo much admired by all other States of *Europe*, which are the Baſis of ours at preſent, and without which it ſeems almoſt impoſſible our Republick ſhould long ſubſiſt in its flouriſhing Condition, were thought to be embarraſſed, at that Time, with ſome very difficult Problems. We were a little perplex'd to ſee ourſelves environed, all on a ſudden, with the Armies of two Powers, who make little or no Scruple of ſeizing, if poſſible, on every Thing they find to their Purpoſe; and have always ſhew'd themſelves deaf to all Intreaties or Arguments, let them be ever ſo artfully concerted, when they can retort with their more perſuaſive Cannon. The *Adriatick*, and her dear Spouſe, were alarmed at that impending Storm, which was ſo likely to diſturb their conjugal Union, if not to divorce them for ever. The Peace which ſucceeded afterwards, and that apparant Reconciliation betwixt the contending Parties, has not been capable yet to reſtore our former domeſtick Tranquility; for tho' the Tempeſt did make but very little Havock on our Land, yet it broke very near us. The Alliance concluded between the *Emperor* and the *Czarina*, threw us into a new Dilemma, worſe than the firſt. His *Imperial* Majeſty claims from us the Performance of our former Engagements with him;

the

the *Porte* assured us of the Continuation of her Friendship, in case we were to continue Neuter; threatening us, at the same Time, with an immediate Invasion, if we were so imprudent as to espouse the Quarrel of the Agressors. The *Pope* pressed us earnestly to join our Arms to those of those two *Christian* Princes, against the common Enemy of the *Christian* Name; but we knew perfectly well that *France* and *Spain* were of a contrary Opinion; and, though it was not our Interest to disoblige either of those Powers, much less to enter into a War against the *Turks*, in which we know by Experience we must be always Losers, we have chose to keep them all in Suspence, till we can see what Part *France* (who has always had a great Influence over the *Turkish* Ministers ever since Cardinal *Richelieu*) should act in that Affair; for fear, by running too rashly to the *Emperor*'s Assistance, we should have chanced to provoke her to patch up a Treaty between his *Imperial* Majesty and his sublime Highness, and leave us in the Lurch; and then we must have been forced to purchase a Peace at the dear Rate of Part of our Dominions, or of some immense Sums of Money, which it is not in our Power to pay at present; for it will never be our Interest to attack the *Turks*, or to provoke them to attack us, were we even sure of a powerful Assistance, which we cannot expect but from the *Emperor*, and which, at that unhappy Juncture of his Affairs, it must

have

have been his Intereſt to refuſe us: Therefore, Sir, it muſt be ours likewiſe, at preſent, (hook'd in as we are on all Sides, by ſo many fomidable Enemies, who would be glad, perhaps, to find a Pretext to ſwallow us up) to ſit ſtill and be quiet; unleſs we ſhould rather chuſe to become a Province of the intended Kingdom of *Lumbardy*. Too happy yet, if, without the leaſt Provocation, we can eſcape that fatal Blow, and ſome other powerful Evils, attracted by the irreſiſtible Charms of the *Adriatick*, don't attempt to break the conjugal Knot, and defile the Marriage-Bed of *our Doge*. Time alone will prove if my Conjectures are Juſt, and convince you that I am,

SIR,

Your moſt humble, and

Obedient Servant, &c.

FINIS.

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